

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

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Assembly President
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Assembly President
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members

FROM: Dale Bagley, Assembly Member *DLB*

DATE: October 16, 2014

RE: Ordinance 2014-316, Amending KPB 22.40.110 To Provide That Certain Noncontroversial Ordinances Scheduled For Public Hearing May Be Placed On The Consent Agenda If No Objection Is Received

Many of the ordinances heard by the assembly are not controversial and unnecessary time is consumed in assembly meetings by addressing each such ordinance separately. Alaska statutes require that before enactment an ordinance must be introduced and set by the governing body for a public hearing, during the hearing the governing body must hear all interested persons wishing to be heard, and after the public hearing the governing body shall consider the ordinance and may adopt it with or without amendment.

The borough code provides for a "consent agenda", which is a mechanism for the assembly to vote on numerous noncontroversial items simultaneously. Titles to consent agenda items are read aloud by the clerk. The public is then given an opportunity to comment on all resolutions on the consent agenda. Because the assembly must unanimously approve the consent agenda any assembly member may remove an item before it is approved.

This ordinance would allow ordinances scheduled for a public hearing to be added to the consent agenda by an assembly member, but only if there are no objections from other assembly members or the public. Ordinances that would amend the borough code or approve the annual budget may not be added to the consent agenda. Most ordinances that could be added relate to supplemental appropriations and land transactions. The ordinance includes safeguards to ensure that the public is made aware that they may comment for three minutes on any such ordinance before it is enacted, and that the assembly members are reminded that any one member may remove an ordinance scheduled for hearing from the consent agenda before final approval.

In all, these amendments would enable the assembly to simultaneously vote on all noncontroversial ordinances for final hearing in a single action instead of taking the time to address each such ordinance separately. Your approval would be appreciated.